

---

---

**Financial services — International bank  
account number (IBAN) —**

**Part 1:  
Structure of the IBAN**

*Services financiers — Numéro de compte bancaire international  
(IBAN) —*

*Partie 1: Structure de l'IBAN*



**PDF disclaimer**

This PDF file may contain embedded typefaces. In accordance with Adobe's licensing policy, this file may be printed or viewed but shall not be edited unless the typefaces which are embedded are licensed to and installed on the computer performing the editing. In downloading this file, parties accept therein the responsibility of not infringing Adobe's licensing policy. The ISO Central Secretariat accepts no liability in this area.

Adobe is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Details of the software products used to create this PDF file can be found in the General Info relative to the file; the PDF-creation parameters were optimized for printing. Every care has been taken to ensure that the file is suitable for use by ISO member bodies. In the unlikely event that a problem relating to it is found, please inform the Central Secretariat at the address given below.

This document is a preview generated by EVS

© ISO 2007

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Web [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 13616-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 68, *Financial services*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Core banking*.

This first edition of ISO 13616-1, together with ISO 13616-2, cancels and replaces ISO 13616:2003, which has been technically revised.

ISO 13616 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Financial services — International bank account number (IBAN)*:

- *Part 1: Structure of the IBAN*
- *Part 2: Role and responsibilities of the Registration Authority*

The following are a summary of the major changes in this revision of ISO 13616:

- the IBAN has a fixed length per country;
- the bank identifier has a fixed length and position within the BBAN component of the IBAN;
- a second part of ISO 13616 has been created, describing the roles and responsibilities of a Registration Authority.

## Introduction

### 0.1 General

The use of electronic communication media and services internationally for the cross-border transmission of information and payment and payment-related transactions between financial institutions, as well as between financial institutions and their customers, continues to increase. In order to facilitate automated processes in support of straight through processing (STP) in this environment, ISO 13616 has been developed by ISO/TC 68/SC 7 as a means by which financial institutions and their customers can exchange, through inter-industry electronic data interchange (EDI), customer account identification details in a machine-readable form. It also makes provision for validation of the information provided.

In developing ISO 13616, it was recognized that a single, universal method for identifying the account and banking relationship for customers of financial institutions was not practical. Accordingly, ISO 13616 recognizes that financial institutions would wish to retain, wherever possible, their current national identification methods. It therefore provides a method whereby a minimum amount of change to existing systems is required and, at the same time, proposes a means of structuring the information in a way that promotes automated processing of the information provided.

It is anticipated that the use of ISO 13616 in electronic data interchange will:

- a) reduce the need for manual intervention in the processing of inter-industry and intra-industry data interchange,
- b) improve the level of confidence in the accuracy of the information provided, and
- c) provide certainty that the information provided is relevant to the country of ownership of the account.

It is recognized that the IBAN would also be of use in a paper environment. The use of information to further qualify details of the financial institution at which the IBAN applies is not precluded by their use outside of the IBAN.

Nationally agreed IBAN formats that are compliant with ISO 13616, and subsequently registered with the ISO 13616 Registration Authority, are published on <http://www.swift.com>.

### 0.2 Background to this revision of ISO 13616

This revision of ISO 13616 was requested to achieve alignment between the ISO IBAN standard and the IBAN standard of the European Committee for Banking Standards (ECBS), in order to have one single globally accepted standard.

This revision of ISO 13616 incorporates the experience gained in the many European countries that have already implemented the IBAN based on the ECBS standard. The critical advantages compared to the previous ISO IBAN standard are the requirement for a fixed length of the IBAN, as well as a fixed length and position of the bank identifier within the IBAN. This enables plausibility checks, resulting in better STP and improved cost efficiency.

The agreement of ISO TC 68/SC 7 and its Working Group 1 was based on extensive discussions, to clarify how ISO 13616 has worked in the past, and how it will continue to work.

One of the main concerns was that the fixed length requirement stipulated in this revision of ISO 13616 would necessitate changes to domestic account numbers, or that the different national account number structures would need to be harmonized. However, this will not be the case, in view of the fact that the fixed length will be achieved when creating the IBAN.

In addition, given the possibility that domestic accounts may use lower case alpha characters, ISO 13616 remains unchanged on this point, i.e. lower case characters continue to be allowed, although the check digit algorithm will continue to be case independent.

This document is a preview generated by EVS

This document is a preview generated by EVS

# Financial services — International bank account number (IBAN) —

## Part 1: Structure of the IBAN

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 13616 specifies the elements of an international bank account number (IBAN) used to facilitate the processing of data internationally in data interchange, in financial environments as well as within and between other industries. The IBAN is designed for automated processing, but can also be used conveniently in other media interchange when appropriate (e.g. paper document exchange, etc.).

This part of ISO 13616 does not specify internal procedures, file organization techniques, storage media, languages, etc. to be used in its implementation, nor is it designed to facilitate the routing of messages within a network. It is applicable to the textual data which might be conveyed through a system (network).

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes*

ISO/IEC 7064, *Information technology — Security techniques — Check character systems*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1

##### **account number**

identifier that identifies an account

#### 3.2

##### **bank identifier**

identifier that uniquely identifies the financial institution and, when appropriate, the branch of that financial institution servicing an account

#### 3.3

##### **basic bank account number**

##### **BBAN**

identifier that uniquely identifies an individual account at a specific financial institution in a particular country and which includes a bank identifier of the financial institution servicing that account